



Sabrina Mahuna

10/13/2008 05:01 PM

To Nancy Rumrill/R9/USEPA/US@EPA

cc [REDACTED]

bcc

Subject UIC permit for the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility

Dear Nancy Rumrill,

I was fortunate enough to be born and raised on the Westside of Maui. This side of the island is covered with beautiful beaches and awesome diving spots. When I was little, about 10 years ago, the place I remember always snorkeling at was Airport Beach, the Kahekili area. It was a beautiful area, had a wonderful reef and the water was nice and clean. There was a gap in my life where I didn't go snorkeling as much but in this past year I began diving and snorkeling again. One of the places that I was eager to go to because of my childhood memories was Kahekili. I went there probably about six months ago and couldn't believe the change. The reef is covered in algae, it looked nothing like what I remembered and was a much less desirable place for me to dive. I recently learned that this is due to the over growth of invasive algal blooms. I also learned this is a result of the increasing nutrients causing over growth that is reaching the reef from injection wells right around that area. To save Maui's reefs, especially Kahekili, there has to be a solution. We first need to reduce or eliminate the amount of wastewater pumped into injections wells and/or at least have the wastewater treated. Also instead of wasting the water and putting it in the ocean where it kills the reef, we can reuse the wastewater to irrigate a green belt in dry areas. We can also build a holding tank for storage of wastewater. Those are just a few solutions and there are many more. Personally I don't see why it hasn't happened yet. It is quite obvious that it needs to happen, soon. There is no negative that can come out of it, we can save our reefs and use the water for irrigated dry areas that actually need the water. Fertilize the fields because they need it, not the algae because they don't! Thank you for your time and concern.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Mahuna